

**Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Adm., Commerce**

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\* Under Development.

<sup>1</sup> No charge.

[62 FR 24813, May 7, 1997]

**PART 960—LICENSING OF PRIVATE  
REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS**

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AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 5624.

SOURCE: 65 FR 46829, July 31, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 960.1 Purpose.**

(a) The regulations in this part set forth the procedural and informational requirements for obtaining a license to operate a private remote sensing space system under Title II of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.*) (Public Law 102-555, 106 Stat. 4163) and the President's Policy announced on March 10, 1994, entitled, "U.S. Policy on Foreign Access to Remote Sensing Space Capabilities" (PDD 23) (Available from NOAA, National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, 1335 East-West Highway, Room 7311, Silver Spring, MD 20910). In addition, this part describes NOAA's regulation of such systems, pursuant to the Act and PDD 23. The regulations in this part are intended to:

(1) Facilitate development of the commercial space remote sensing industry in the United States and promote the broad use of remote sensing data;

(2) Preserve the national security of the United States;

(3) Observe the foreign policies and international obligations of the United States;

(4) Ensure that unenhanced data collected by licensed private remote sensing space systems concerning the territory of any country are made available to the government of that country upon its request, as soon as such data are available and on reasonable com-

mercial terms and conditions as appropriate;

(5) Ensure that remotely sensed data are widely available for research, particularly environmental and global change research; and

(6) Maintain a permanent comprehensive U.S. government archive of global land remote sensing data for long-term monitoring and study of the changing global environment and other archival purposes.

(b) In accordance with the Act and the PDD 23, decisions regarding the issuance of licenses and operational conditions (*See* subpart B of this part) will be made by the Secretary of Commerce, or his/her designee. Determinations of conditions to meet national security, foreign policy and international obligations are made by the Secretaries of Defense and State respectively. Determinations will be made in accordance with the process described in the Interagency MOU Fact Sheet contained in Appendix 2 of this part.

**§ 960.2 Scope.**

(a) The Act and the regulations in this part apply to any person subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States who operates or proposes to operate a private remote sensing space system, either directly or through an affiliate or subsidiary, and/or establishes substantial connections with the United States regarding the operation of a private remote sensing system.

(b) In determining whether substantial connections exist with regard to a specific system, the factors NOAA may consider include, but are not limited to: the location of a system control center or operations centers and stations; the administrative control of the system; use of a U.S. launch vehicle; location or administrative control of ground receiving stations; the investment, ownership, or technology included in the system.

(c) The regulations in this part apply to any action taken on or after August 30, 2000 with respect to any license, and to pre-existing licenses.

(d) If any provision of the regulations in this part or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder